

PLC



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/867,650	05/31/2001	Michael Anthony Sijacic	06502.0338-00000	7983

22852 7590 12/22/2004

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER  
LLP  
1300 I STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20005

EXAMINER

SHAH, NILESH R

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2127

DATE MAILED: 12/22/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	09/867,650	SIJACIC ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Nilesh Shah	2127	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-91 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-91 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                                         |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                                                                              | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                                                     | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/28/04, 05/05/04/</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                                |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-91 are presented for examination.

#### ***Specification***

2. The cross reference related to the application cited in the specification must be updated (i.e. updated the relevant status, with PTO serial numbers or patent numbers where appropriate, on page 1, lines 1-7. The entire specification should be so revised).

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:
  - (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.
4. Claims 1-29, 34-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Falls et al (5,950,198) (hereinafter Falls) in view of Remington et al (6,070,150) (hereinafter Remington).
5. As per claim 1, Falls teaches the invention substantially as claimed including method for creating an activity within a process management system, comprising:

Art Unit: 2127

receiving first data reflecting a class file (col. 5, lines 10-20; col. 7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46);

receiving second data reflecting a data representation file (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46);

packaging the first and second data (col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 7, lines 25-32; col. 16, lines 44-46).

6. Falls does not specifically teach the use of an automated workflow process.

Remington teaches the use of associating the packaged data with an activity that may be used in an automated workflow process to access information external to the process management system (col. 13, lines 24-30; col. 14, lines 49-53).

7. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Remington and Falls because Remington's method of automating certain process would make Falls system more efficient but having less user interaction.

8. As per claim 2, Falls teaches method wherein the data representation file includes a section that determines the appearance of a representation reflecting the activity (col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 5, lines 10-20).

9. As per claim 3, Falls teaches method wherein the class file includes a method that is configured to obtain a value of a parameter defined in the data representation file (col. 5, lines 10-20).

10. As per claim 4, Falls teaches method wherein receiving first data reflecting a class file

includes:

receiving data that defines a package for the class file(col. 6, lines 43-55; col. 5, lines 10-20); and

receiving data that defines methods that retrieve and set values to variables to be used by the activity (col. 5, lines 10-20).

11. As per claim 5, Falls teaches method wherein receiving data that defines methods

includes:

receiving data that reflects a method that defines variables that are constant across all instances of the activity (col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 5, lines 10-20).

12. As per claim 6, Remington teaches method wherein the method is associated with an input hashtable to define values of a variable used by the activity (col. 15 lines 17-40).

13. As per claim 7, Remington teaches method wherein receiving data that defines methods

includes:

receiving data reflecting a method that defines values for variables in a first hashtable and retrieves values for variables from a second hashtable (col. 15 lines 17-40).

Art Unit: 2127

14. As per claim 8, Falls teaches method wherein receiving data that defines methods

includes:

receiving data reflecting a method that releases resources used by an application that implements the activity when the application is unloaded from the process management system (col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 7, lines 25-32; col. 16, lines 44-46).

15. As per claim 9, Falls teaches method wherein receiving second data reflecting a data representation file includes:

receiving data reflecting a first section that defines a type and name of the class file(col. 5, lines 10-20; col.7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46);

receiving data reflecting a second section that defines parameters with values that remain constant within all instances of the activity(col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46);

receiving data reflecting a fifth section associated with a visual representation associated with the activity (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

Remington teaches receiving data reflecting a third section that sets values for selected parameters within a first hashtable(col. 15 lines 17-40); and

receiving data reflecting a fourth section that defines what to do with parameters included in a second hashtable (col. 15 lines 17-40).

16. As per claim 10, Falls teaches method wherein packaging the first and second data

includes:

packaging the first and second data into one of a JAR file or a zip file(col. 4, lines 55-57; col. 5 lines 1-2).

17. As per claim 11, Falls teaches method wherein associating the packaged data with an activity includes:

- (a) locating the packaged data(col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46); and
- (b) receiving data reflecting a visual representation that corresponds to the packaged files (col.7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

18. As per claim 12, Falls teaches method for implementing a custom activity within a process management environment, comprising:

defining a file associated with a custom activity(col. 5, lines 10-20; col.7, lines 25-32);  
assigning a visual representation associated with the custom activity (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

Remington teaches receiving an indication reflecting implementation of the custom activity in a workflow process based on a position of the visual representation in a process map representing the workflow process (col. 13, lines 24-30; col. 14, lines 49-53); and  
invoking the file (col. 17, lines 16-30).

19. As per claim 13, Falls teaches method wherein the file is an archive file and includes the visual representation.(col. 4 lines 46-55).

20. As per claim 14, Falls teaches method for creating and defining a custom activity within a process management system, comprising:

creating at least one file defining properties associated with the custom activity (col. 5, lines 10-20; col. 7, lines 25-32).

Remington teaches defining a model associated with the custom activity, wherein the custom activity may be used to access information external to the process manager system (col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66).

21. As per claim 15, Remington teaches method wherein the model is an image reflecting the custom activity (col. 7, lines 50-57).

22. As per claim 16, Falls teaches method further comprising packaging the file and model into an archive file. (col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 7, lines 25-32; col. 16, lines 44-46).

23. As per claim 17, Remington teaches method further comprising:

associating the custom activity with a workflow process managed by the process management system (col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66).

24. As per claim 18, Remington teaches method wherein associating the custom activity includes:



Art Unit: 2127

determining a position of the model in a visual process map reflecting the workflow

process(col. 13, lines 24-30; col. 14, lines 49-53); and

invoking the custom activity in the workflow process based on the determination (col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66).

25. As per claim 19, Falls teaches method wherein the at least one file includes a Java class file and an XML description file (col. 4, lines 55-57; col. 5 lines 1-2).

26. As per claim 20, Falls teaches a method for implementing a custom activity in a process management system, comprising:

invoking a class defining the custom activity based on a manipulation of the image by a user such that the image is placed in the process map, wherein the custom activity exchanges

data with resources external to the process management system(col. 5, lines 10-20; col.7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

Remington teaches creating a process map reflecting an automated workflow process(col. 13, lines 24-30; col. 14, lines 49-53); and

creating an image reflecting a custom activity(col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66).

27. As per claim 21, Falls teaches a method for creating a custom activity in a process management system, the

Art Unit: 2127

custom activity exchanging information with resources external to the process management

system, comprising receiving a first file and a second file(col. 5, lines 10-20; col.7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

Remington teaches archiving the files in an archive file such that when the custom activity is activated the archived files are accessed and executed (col. 13, lines 24-30; col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66; col. 14, lines 49-53).

28. As per claim 22, Falls teaches a method wherein receiving the first and second files includes:

receiving package information associated with the first file that implement packages external to the process management system (col. 5, lines 10-20; col.7, lines 25-32).

29. As per claim 23, Remington teaches a method wherein receiving the first and second files includes: receiving data that interacts with parameters associated with a hashtable defined in the second file (col. 15 lines 17-40).

30. As per claim 24, Remington teaches a method wherein receiving the class and XML files includes; receiving data associated with the second file that defines at least one hashtable used by the first file(col. 15 lines 17-40).

Art Unit: 2127

31. As per claim 25, Falls teaches method wherein the first file reflects a class file and the second file reflects an XML file (col. 4, lines 55-57; col. 5 lines 1-2).

32. As per claim 26, Falls teaches method wherein archiving the files includes:  
archiving the files in an archive file consisting of one of a JAR file and a ZIP file (col. 4, lines 55-57; col. 5 lines 1-2).

33. As per claim 26, Falls teaches a memory for storing data for access by a process being executed by a processor, the memory comprising:  
a structure defining a class file and a data representation file, packaging the files  
assigning an icon representing the packaged files(col. 5, lines 10-20; col.7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46)  
Remington teaches associating the icon with an activity that performs processes defined by the class and data representation files (col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 5, lines 10-20; col. 4, lines 55-57).

34. As per claim 28, Falls teaches a method wherein the data representation file is an XML description file (col. 4, lines 55-57; col. 5 lines 1-2).

35. As per claim 29, Falls teaches a method wherein the XML description file defines the format of the activity (col. 4, lines 55-57; col. 5 lines 1-2).

36. As per claim 34, Falls teaches a memory for storing data for access by a process being executed by a processor, the memory comprising:

a structure defining a custom activity implemented in a process management system by defining a package for importing packages external to the process management system (col.7, lines 25-32, col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

Remington teaches defining an init() method for defining initialization tasks associated with the custom activity(col. 3, lines 34-39; col. 5, lines 10-20; col. 4, lines 55-57) and defining a perform() method for executing tasks associated with the custom activity(col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

37. As per claim 35, Remington teaches a structure wherein the perform() method is associated with at least a first hashtable including values corresponding to data including values to be placed in the data fields (col. 15 lines 17-40).

38. As per claim 36, Remington teaches a structure wherein the custom activity may have a plurality of instances and wherein the init() method defines an association with resources external to the process management system and are shared by all instances of the custom activity (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

39. As per claim 37, Falls teaches a system for creating and implementing custom activities in a process management environment, comprising:

a processor; and a memory containing instructions executable by the processor to (col. 4 lines 1-7).

Remington teaches receiving a selection to add a custom palette (col. 16, lines 44-46; col. 13 lines 23-30);

receive information reflecting an identifier associated with the custom palette (col. 16, lines 44-46); and

assigning a visual representation to the custom palette reflecting a custom activity that may be used in an automated workflow process to access information external to the process management environment (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

40. As per claim 38, Falls teaches a for creating and implementing a custom activity in a process managements environnant comprising:

a processor; and a memory containing instructions executable by the processor to (col. 4 lines 1-7):

Remington teaches receiving a request to generate a palette associated with the custom activity,

assign the custom activity to the palette (col. 16, lines 44-46; col. 13 lines 23-30); and

determine activation of the custom activity based on a manipulation associated with the palette, wherein the custom activity accesses resources external to the process

management environment (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46).

Art Unit: 2127

41. As per claim 39, Falls teaches a system for creating and implementing a custom activity in a process managements environment, comprising:

a processor; and a memory containing instructions executable by the processor to(col. 4 lines 1-7).

Remington teaches receive a first file defining with an interface with a package external to the process management system receive a second file defining parameters that the first file uses (col. 13, lines 24-30; col. 14, lines 49-53);

archive the first and second file in an archive file (col. 6, lines 43-50; col. 16, lines 44-46); and invoke the first and second tile based on a manipulation of an image reflecting the custom activity in a visual process map reflecting an automated workflow process (col. 14, lines 49-53)

42. Claims 40-65 are rejected based on the same rejections as claims 1-26 above.

43. Claims 66-91 are rejected based on the same rejections as claims 1-26 above.

44. Claims 30-33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Remington et al (6,070,150) (hereinafter Remington) in view of Sharma et al (5,511,190) (hereinafter Sharma).

45. As per claim 30, Remington teaches a memory for storing data for access by a process being executed by a processor, the memory comprising:

a structure for maintaining an identity of a custom activity, parameters associated with the custom activity (col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66).

46. Remington does not teach the use of input and output values being used in the hashtable.

Sharma teaches a first hashtable reflecting data values to be used as input argument in a method (col. 2, lines 63-67, col. 6 lines 15-19) and a second hashtable reflecting output arguments of the method (col. 8 lines 6-15, col.8 lines 50-55).

47. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Sharma and Remington because Sharma's use of a hash table to encrypt the data would provide improve Remington custom activity transport by having the date secure and safe from a restricted party.

48. As per claim 31, Remington teaches a memory for storing data for access by a process being executed by a processors the memory comprising: defining a user interface associated with a custom activity that performs a process based on the values of the hashtables parameters (col. 15 lines 17-40).

Sharma teaches a structure for defining a value of a parameter associated with an input hashtable, mapping a value of a parameter associated with an output hashtable (col. 8 lines 6-15, col.8 lines 50-55).

49. As per claim 32, Remington teaches a memory for storing data associated with a custom activity for access by a process being executed by a processor, the memory comprising:

specifying design tags that define a user interface associated with the custom activity  
(col. 7, lines 50-57; col. 13, lines 60-66).

a structure specifying an input tag that obtains a value for an input hashtable to be used as  
an argument in a method (col. 6 lines 15-19; col. 8 lines 6-15, col.8 lines 50-55),  
specifying an output tag that specify parameters that define what to do with parameter in  
an output hashtable including output arguments associated with the method (col. 8 lines  
6-15, col.8 lines 50-55).

50. As per claim 33, Remington teaches a structure wherein the input, output and design tags  
each include parameter tags that have attributes defining user interface characteristics  
associated with the respective tag (col. 6 lines 15-19; col. 8 lines 6-15, col.8 lines 50-55).



Art Unit: 2127

***Conclusion***

51. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nilesh Shah whose telephone number is (571)272-3771.

The examiner can normally be reached on 9-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Meng An can be reached on (571)272-3756.

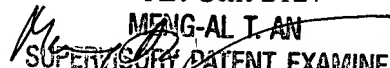
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NS  
November 30,04

Nilesh Shah

Examiner

Art Unit 2127

  
MENG-AL T. AN  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100